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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
KOBUN SUZUKI : GROUP ART UNIT: 2184  
SERIAL NO: 09/900,919 : EXAMINER:  
FILED: JULY 10, 2001 :  
FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR :  
SUPERVISING IMAGE FORMING :  
APPARATUSES BY REMOTELY :  
DOWNLOADING FIRMWARE BASED :  
ON UPDATED HARDWARE :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 13, paragraph beginning at line 11 to line 21, delete in its entirety and insert therefor:

a 1  
As illustrated in Fig. 11, when one or more information related to the hardware of the image forming apparatus are designated and input, and a prescribed key is operated (e.g. an operation start key is turned ON) to start downloading of the firmware (step S2), the CPU of the central system 1 may retrieve appropriate information from the image forming apparatus supervisory DB 59b of Fig. 5. Each or all of hardware units can be designated and set as